

6 an I/O controller manager coupled to the fabric services to assign the target
7 fabric-attached I/O controller to said host and to send messages to said host indicating
8 that the target fabric-attached I/O controller has been assigned.

1 21. (Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable
2 program code means embodied therein for use in a host system to report multiple paths
3 to a target fabric-attached I/O controller via a cluster fabric, said computer readable
4 program code means comprising:

5 a fabric bus driver provided to create and report multiple paths to a target fabric-
6 attached I/O controller via the cluster fabric; and

7 a fabric adapter device driver provided to interface to the cluster fabric for
8 enabling reporting the multiple paths to the target fabric-attached I/O controller.

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1 --25. A method of initializing a host to report multiple paths to a target fabric-
2 attached I/O device via a cluster fabric, comprising:
3 loading an operating system (OS) into a memory;
4 identifying all fabric-attached I/O devices assigned to the host;
5 reporting the identified fabric-attached I/O controllers; and
6 creating and reporting multiple paths to a target fabric-attached I/O device via the
7 cluster fabric.

1 26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the identified fabric-attached
2 I/O devices are reported, via a fabric bus driver included in the operating system (OS) to

3 provide a local I/O bus abstraction for the cluster fabric into the memory, using a
4 common set of procedures or commands.

1 27. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fabric bus driver is further
2 configured to create a separate device object for each port of the host that can be used
3 to communication with the target fabric-attached I/O device and establish the multiple
4 paths to the target fabric-attached I/O device, via the cluster fabric.

1 28. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the multiple paths are utilized
2 for load balancing I/O requests and/or for fault tolerance when one or more paths to the
3 target fabric-attached I/O device fail.

1 29. A method of initializing a host to report multiple paths to a target I/O
2 device via a cluster fabric, comprising:

3 loading a local I/O bus driver and a fabric bus driver providing a local I/O bus
4 abstraction for the cluster fabric into a memory;

5 identifying, using the local I/O bus driver, local I/O controllers connected to a
6 local I/O bus in the host; and

7 identifying, using the fabric bus driver, fabric-attached I/O devices assigned to
8 the host in order to determine multiple paths to a target fabric-attached I/O device, and
9 report all multiple paths to a target fabric-attached I/O device via the cluster fabric.

Agent 1 30. The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the multiple paths are utilized
2 for load balancing I/O requests and/or for fault tolerance when one or more paths to the
3 target fabric-attached I/O device fail.--
